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# Letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the attached concept paper for the Security Council meeting on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", to be held on 9 December 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Neven **Jurica**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Croatian Presidency of the Security Council (December 2008) "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts"

### Concept paper for the thematic Security Council debate on "Global Security and International Terrorism" to be held on 9 December 2008

1. In its capacity as the country holding the Security Council Presidency in December 2008, Croatia would like to invite Council members and representatives of the broad international community to engage in an open and specific exchange of views on the relation between global terrorism and international security. The main goal of this debate would be to revitalize and strengthen international solidarity in combating this threat, including the strengthening of the United Nations leading role in global counter-terrorism efforts.

2. As the Chairman of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and one of the first promoters of the Global Anti-Terrorist Coalition, the Republic of Croatia strongly condemns international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and, bearing in mind the danger of terrorism converging with other threats to international peace and security — such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crime and cyber-terrorism — urges even stronger global cooperation in the suppression of this latter-day scourge.

3. At its root, terrorism opposes the fundamental values of humanity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and essential human rights documents. While often hiding behind the mask of religious fundamentalism, it is in sharp contrast to the very foundations of every religion. Economic imbalances and social handicaps, from poverty to limited resources, are unresolved issues favouring the spread of terrorism, while civilization, cultural and traditional divisions and misunderstandings add new and dangerous dimensions to global insecurity.

4. This asymmetric threat cannot be eliminated merely by waging war against it. Quite the contrary — it is a continuously evolving phenomenon which requires a flexible multidimensional approach covering a broad spectrum of specific, traditional counter-terrorism steps as well as preventive measures and policies, including the elimination of conditions which favour or facilitate the recruitment of potential terrorists. It goes without saying that all counter-terrorism activities must abide by established international legal standards.

5. Today, seven years after the terrible events which resulted in unprecedented international solidarity, the world is faced with an entirely different situation. In the aftermath of these events, the significant increase of international terrorist acts has given rise to an ill atmosphere of suspicion, mistrust, serious infringement of human rights, and religious and cultural intolerance.

6. The Security Council has put a great deal of effort into reaching an important consensus required for the adoption of a major set of new resolutions renewing and, even more importantly, updating the work of its bodies engaged in counter-terrorism activities. These committees, one of which Croatia is privileged to chair, and their

expert bodies are among the most important cornerstones of the United Nations counter-terrorism mechanism.

7. Similarly, the General Assembly has reviewed the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and appreciated both the results and the future goals of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Moreover, due credit has to be given to the energy and inventiveness of many regional organizations and initiatives, including the special role of the Alliance of Civilizations, without which the efficient implementation of counter-terrorism measures would indeed be very difficult.

8. Although undeniably important strategic counter-terrorism guidance was adopted two years ago, it is clear that specific follow-up has not followed the desired time frame. In this regard, many comments refer to the lack of guidance and cooperation between Member States and the United Nations. Unity and coherence within the United Nations ought to be promoted, and due advantage taken of the specific strength of its bodies.

9. Finally, we must send a strong message confirming our determination and unity in the fight against terrorism under the umbrella of the United Nations, which plays a central role in its suppression. Equally important, terrorism must once and for all be dissociated from any nation, religion or belief, civilization or culture.

Possible outcome:

> The adoption of a presidential statement calling for, among other things, the reaffirmation of international solidarity in combating terrorism and urging more energetic counter-terrorism efforts by Member States.